

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
January 2, 2007

The Regular Meeting of the Edgefield County Council was held at 6:00 P. M. Tuesday, January 2, 2007, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield.

Members present

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman
Norman Dorn, Councilman
Joel D. Hudson, Councilman
B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

Others present

John W. Pettigrew, Jr., County Administrator
John F. Byrd, Jr., County Attorney
Lynn Strom, Finance/Budget Manager
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council

Chairman Kneece called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by Rev. Gordon, after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Oath of Office

County Attorney John Byrd administered the oath of office to the council members. The term of office for the councilmen is January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

County Attorney Byrd conducted the election of chairman and vice chairman. Mr. Kneece was elected chairman and Mr. Bright was elected Vice Chairman. Votes were unanimous.

Minutes

Councilman Bright made the motion to accept the December 5, 2006, Edgefield County Council Minutes as written. Councilman Hudson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports

The Voter Registration Office will be closed January 31 through February 3, 2007. The staff will be attending training at the SCARE conference.

Ordinances

Prior to first reading of Ordinance No. 06-07-586, "An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 86-248, General Requirements for Road Acceptance", Chairman Kneece asked Howard Gibson to explain the purpose of this ordinance. Mr. Gibson explained that the

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ordinance is a recommendation of the Edgefield County Transportation Committee and has been approved by the Edgefield County Planning Commission. The primary purpose of the ordinance is to adjust the length of time before the County is responsible for maintaining a road and bring the required bond in line with actual cost that would be associated with repair if necessary. The present ordinance (86-248) is dated in 1986.

Motion to accept first reading of Ordinance No. 06-07-586, "An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 86-248, General Requirements for Road Acceptance" was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously.

The motion to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 06-07-586, as amended, was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Bright. Motion carried unanimously.

First reading of Ordinance No. 06-07-587, "An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a General Obligation Refunding Bond, Series 2007, or Such Other Appropriate Series Designation, of Edgefield County, South Carolina, in the Principal Amount of Not Exceeding \$390,000; Fixing the Form and Details of the Bond; Authorizing the County Administrator or His Lawfully Authorized Designee to Determine Certain Matters Relating to the Bond; Providing for the Payment of the Bond and the Disposition of the Proceeds Thereof; and Other Matters Relating Thereto." (First reading by title only.)

Assuming a 3.9% interest rate, Edgefield County would save \$14,351.37 over three years by refinancing these bonds. Attorney fees are estimated to be \$3,500-\$5,000, so our savings should be between \$9,350 and \$10,850.

Councilman Kitchens made the motion to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 06-07-587, with the stipulation to try to pin down the attorney fees to make sure it is worth re-financing. Motion seconded by Councilman Hudson. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Councilmen Liaison and Committee Assignments

Administrative	Kneece and Hudson
Finance	Kneece and Kitchens
Roads & Bridges	Dorn and Hudson
Recreation	Dorn and Kitchens
Economic Dev.	Kneece and Bright
Buildings & Grounds	all councilmen
Three Rivers Solid Waste	Kneece and Pettigrew
Tri County Solid Waste	Kneece & Bright (Pettigrew, alt.)
GLEAMS	Bright
Hospital Board	Kneece
Planning Commission	Kitchens
Fire Board	Kitchens

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**Transportation Com.
Piedmont Tech. College
Alcohol & Drug Abuse
Senior Citizens**

**Bright
Dorn
Dorn
Kneece**

The motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to continue with the same appointments. Three Rivers Solid Waste and Tri County Solid Waste alternate member was changed earlier after Wayne Adams resigned as County Administrator to John Pettigrew. This was done by Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

Maintenance on certain county roads

There are approximately thirty one (31) roads (over 200 miles) in Edgefield County that are being maintained by the county that have no dwellings on them, and approximately a dozen roads that are actually driveways (private) that are being maintained.. The Edgefield County Transportation Committee, at its November 2, 2006 meeting, voted unanimously that "C" funds should not be expended for such purposes (gravel and pipe). The Committee feels that funds should only be spent to improve roads that serve more than one person or special interests.

Mr. Gibson proposed that once a house is built and occupied, or has a real purpose, the road is put back on county maintenance to that point. There are some that are maintained now to a certain point.

At this time these roads are being scraped three and four times a year and the suggestion is to scrape only once a year, maybe in the late summer which would prepare the road (s) for the winter. Generally there is no problem during the summer for vehicles traveling these roads. The approximate cost for scraping and mowing these roads is \$61,000.00. That does not include any gravel or pipe. The driveway costs are approximately \$6,200.00. These driveway requests are not under the "charge" system; just driveways that have been done for years. Gravel/pipe was not to be put on any of these roads but it was brought to the attention of the Transportation Committee that this had happened on a couple of roads.

There are certain circumstances that may require some maintenance at different times. But, that being the case, the unscheduled maintenance should count as the one-time a year. Mowing is currently twice a year. That could be cut to once a year. The mowing should be done prior to scraping because of damage that could occur to the motor grader.

Councilman Kitchens made the motion to limit maintenance on roads listed in exhibit four (list attached to hard copy of minutes) to once a year, with the request for emergency maintenance or a special situation being made by Howard Gibson for the final decision

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by the Administrator. Councilman Bright seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

In-house Audit

Although this was not an agenda item, Councilman Kitchens asked that before work would begin on a new budget he would like to have an in-house audit to guide the council prior to making decisions in preparing the new budget. In that audit I feel that we should look at how the present budget is being applied; look at the expenditures and revenues coming in. Mr. Kitchens asked that Lynn Strom, Finance/Budget Manager, conduct this audit.

Transfer of funds

Chairman Kneece asked for a motion to transfer funds to the administrator's office to cover salary/expenses for Barbara Stark during the time she served as interim administrator. Councilman Bright made the motion to pay Ms. Stark \$3,000 for the time she served as the interim administrator and to transfer these funds from contingency to the administrator's account. Motion was seconded by Councilman Kitchens and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Vacancy/Tax Board of Appeals

Mr. David Patton, representing Councilman Kitchens' district on the Tax Board of Appeals, resigned as of December 2006. Mr. Kitchens stated he asked Charles Kemp if he would be willing to serve on this Board and Mr. Kemp was in agreement. The motion to approve Charles Kemp to serve on the Tax Board of Appeals was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Hudson. The motion carried unanimously.

Lease Agreement/Northside Park

The lease agreement between the Union Third Division and Edgefield County has been approved by the Union Third Division and is before Council for its approval. This lease agreement allows the County to lease eight acres in northern Edgefield County to be used as a recreation area. Councilman Dorn made the motion to approve the lease agreement between the Union Third Division and Edgefield County. Councilman Hudson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Kitchens asked for the floor at this time. He referred to an article from October 2006 (Edgefield Daily) that was directed to the council members and to himself. Mr. Kitchens stated that the article which referred to his property was incorrect.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Pettigrew updated the council on the following:

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(1) Northside Park. We are in the process of applying for a Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant of \$29,000 (a 50-50 match) for improvements at the park Ms. Benson (RC&D Coordinator with US Dept. of Agriculture) is working with us on the grant. The application is due in March and hopefully we will know something three to four months after that.

(2) A recreation commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 4th at 6:30. The basketball league is up and running. Nick Wates (Recreation Director) stated there are more participants this year than last year.

(3) The purchase of a new ambulance that council approved funding for last month that was in FY 06-07 budget was brought in for a demonstration this past Friday. It has been taken back to be striped and lettered, to be delivered for operation within two weeks. The EMS is looking forward to having the new ambulance that is really needed.

(4) The administrator stated this past month he had met with two different industrial prospects that are looking at Edgefield County as a place to make additional investments and open plants here. Both prospects seem to be very interested and we hope to have a decision by the end of the month.

Things seem to be going pretty good as far as interest in Edgefield County. We have a lot to offer here and hopefully will be successful in getting at least one and maybe both of these prospects.

Upper Savannah

Rick Green reminded council of the Water & Sewer Grant application that will be coming up in the spring (March or April). Please let Ruth LaForge know if there is a project council would like to submit. Councilman Kitchens mentioned that a water project for the west side had been submitted several times. Rick stated he will talk with Mrs. LaForge concerning this request.

Councilman Dorn asked if there was not some way an employee could be partially paid or whatever for time accumulated instead of that employee taking so much time off at one particular time. Mr. Dorn feels an employee should not be off the job for such extended time.

Guests

Ms. Carolyn Piekieniak addressed council concerning a session she had with the assessor's office. She felt that she had been misinformed on paying the 80% and would like to have seen more information about the assessment process in the local papers.

The administrator addressed the 80% issue. The deadline was December 28 (last day

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appeals could be filed). If the envelope was postmarked on the 28th then that still qualified the individual to appeal. The notices are being prepared to mail to the ones who have filed an appeal and whose appeal has not been settled. Those are the ones that can pay the 80% of the assessment.

No comments from the public

Claims approved as follows:

PAYROLL:	12/4/06 thru 12/17/06
Regular.....	\$207,466.76

PAYROLL:	12/18/06 thru 12/31/06
Regular.....	\$213,965.65
General Operating.....	\$592,765.25

No executive session.

There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Dorn, seconded by Councilman Hudson. The next regular meeting of Council is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 2007.

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

Norman Dorn, Councilman

Joel D. Hudson, Councilman

ATTEST

B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council

